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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 000388

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR A/S NOREIGA, NSC FOR TOM SHANNON, DOD/OSD
FOR DASD PARDO-MAURER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/15/2015

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SUBJECT: BRAZIL: GOB REQUESTS USG "BEST EFFORTS" TO
DISCOURAGE ALLEGED U.S. FIRM'S RECRUITMENT OF BRAZILIANS
FOR SECURITY WORK IN IRAQ

Classified By: AMBASSADOR JOHN J. DANILOVICH. REASONS: 1.4
(B)(D).

¶11. (C) Ambassador, accompanied by Polcouns, Consul General and Special Assistant, met on 15 February with Ambassador Ruy Nogueira, Foreign Ministry (MRE) Under Secretary for Cooperation and Brazilian Overseas Communities, at Nogueira's request. Nogueira, whose regular portfolio focuses on consular, immigration and expat issues, indicated that he was substituting for Under Secretary for Political Affairs Pedrosa (who is traveling), on instruction by FM Amorim, to urgently register senior-level GOB concern regarding reports of recruiting of Brazilians to work in Iraq as security contractors for a U.S. firm, Inveco International Holding S.A. of Florida. Nogueira noted that the issue had already been raised in Washington in January by Brazilian Ambassador Abdenur with senior officials at State, NSC and DOD/OSD. Nogueira said Abdenur had been told that the USG had no information on Inveco but would investigate and follow up with the GOB. Nogueira provided Ambassador an aide-memoire detailing the Washington meetings and GOB concerns (Note: An informal translation of the aide-memoire is being e-mailed to Department WHA/BSC. End note.)

¶12. (C) Nogueira said that two German nationals, identified as Heiko Helmut Emil Seibold and Frank Gunter Salewski, had been reportedly seeking to recruit ex-Brazilian military personnel in Goias and Sao Paulo states for security work in Iraq. Salewski's efforts were reported in recent days in the press, indicating the recruiting effort was continuing weeks after the GOB's initial manifestation of concern to the USG in January. The press attention was proving "a source of some embarrassment" for the GOB, Nogueira said, and although the GOB is aware of the "delicacy" of the issue, he requested USG "best efforts" to investigate Inveco's activities and dissuade it from recruiting in Brazil.

¶13. (C) Ambassador replied that he was aware of Abdenur's discussions in Washington, and would immediately provide the aide-memoire to Washington. However, he noted that DOD/OSD DAS for Western Hemisphere Pardo-Maurer had told Ambassador that DOD could not, thus far, find record of a security contractor called Inveco. Ambassador requested any additional information that the GOB could provide on the firm. Nogueira indicated that the GOB is considering interviewing Salewski.

¶14. (C) Comment: With the GOB receiving heat in the press for its inability to determine the fate, let alone arrange the release of the one known Brazilian hostage in captivity in Iraq, the MRE apparently is anxious to assure the pool of potential Brazilian victims does not increase. Some editorial comment here has already waxed indignant about Brazil's supplying "cannon fodder" for "mercenary" contractors in Iraq. In light of this and the repeated, high-level GOB requests, we hope that we can provide some feedback to the Brazilians asap. We ask that Washington agencies attempt to track down Inveco and determine what it may be doing in Brazil. We are checking locally; a quick search through the internet found a few hits for "Inveco International Holding" in stories related to Iraq, and one Brazilian press report indicated Inveco is tied to "Global Security Group," a New York security and risk management firm that has a web site (www.globalsecuritygroup.com). We will also contact colleagues at the German Embassy, where some press reports claim Salewski and Seibold -- described as long-time expats resident in Brazil -- have sought assistance.

DANILOVICH